

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 SSO-00 IO-12

DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 /140 W

----- 063408

R 301000 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3332

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

WHITE HOUSE

CJCS

CDRUSSAG

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 2376

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: SISOUK PRESS CONFERENCE ON MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS

1. SISOUK N CHAMPASSAK, PM'S DELEGUE FOR DEFENSE, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 30 TO UNDERSCORE HIS CONCERN AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS REDEPLOYMENT OF NVA 335 TH REGIMENT OF 316 TH DIVISION, TRADITIONALLY LOCATED ON PLAINE OF JARS, SOUTHWARD ALONG ROUTE FOUR TO THATONTHAVIENG REGION.

2. SISOUK TOLD PRESS HE SUSPECTED THIS MOVE WAS TIED TO POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN RLG AND LPF ON FORMATION OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH LPF DEL CHIEF PHOUN SIPRASEUTH HAS RETURNED TO VIENTIANE, " HE DOESN' T HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO NEGOTIATE." PHOUN' S PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE FOR THREE MONTHS LAST YEAR LED NOWHERE. CONTINUED ABSENCE OF LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY PHOUM VONGVICHIT INDICATES LPF IS IN NO HURRY TO FORM GOVERNMENT. SISOUK ASCRIBED LPF PROCRASTINATION TO DRV DESIRE TO MAINTAIN ITS UNITS IN HO CHI MINH TRAIL STRUCTURE, FREE OF POSSIBLE ICC INSPECTION, AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. ASKED WHAT RLG INTENDED TO DO ABOUT REDEPLOYMENT OF 335 TH REGIMENT, SISOUK RESPONDED THAT CLOSE WATCH IS BEING MAINTAINED AND GOVERNMENT

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" MAY REACT IN SELF- DEFENSE". HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ENEMY TROOP MOVEMENT IN SALA PHOU KHOUN REGION. SISOUK WAS ASKED BY REPORTER FOR HIS VIEWS ON PRIME MINISTER' S REMARK TO CBS NEWSMAN CRONKITE THAT HE HOPED TO PRESENT CABINET LIST TO KING BY APRIL 15. SISOUK REPLIED: " NO COMMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER IS FORMING THE GOVERNMENT, NOT ME."
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, LA
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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK
MULTIPLE
SAIGON
WHITE HOUSE
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